



Department of Energy

Idaho Operations Office
850 Energy Drive
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401-1563

April 4, 2003

Mr. Wayne Pierre, Team Leader
Environmental Cleanup Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region X
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

Mr. Dean Nygard, Site Remediation Manager
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Environmental Quality
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706

SUBJECT: Notification that a 24-hour Pump Test for the Operable Unit 3-13, Group 5, Snake River Plain Aquifer Project will Not Be Performed – (EM-ER-03-093)

Dear Mr. Pierre and Mr. Nygard:

This letter confirms the decision not to perform a 24-hour pump test for the Operable Unit 3-13, Group 5, Snake River Plain Aquifer project. All three parties to the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order reached mutual agreement that a test is unnecessary during the March 17, 2003, meeting.

The following information is provided to document the original purpose for a 24-hour pump test and the reason a test is no longer required. The Monitoring System and Installation Plan (MSIP) (DOE/ID-10782, June 2002) states that four aquifer wells will be deepened and one new well drilled in the hot spot predicted by the Waste Area Group 3 Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study numerical-model. Those wells were to be sampled and analyzed to see if the contaminants of concern (COC) concentrations will exceed maximum concentration levels (MCLs) for drinking water standards in 2095 and beyond. If the COC concentrations exceeded their action levels (at a sustained pumping rate of at least 0.5 gallons per minute for 24 hours), the groundwater will be pumped and treated to reduce COCs. If MCLs are not exceeded in 2095, the contingent pump and treat remedial action does not need to be implemented.

In May 2002, you gave your concurrence on the locations of four wells. Those wells were drilled that summer. You were notified of our inability to deepen an additional well due to well obstructions and you gave your concurrence that the additional well was not necessary. The aquifer wells were sampled above, below, and within the HI interbed and the samples were analyzed. The limitation and validation (L&V) data was transmitted to you on January 30, 2003, (EM-ER-03-032). The observed COC concentrations in the aquifer are currently statistically below drinking water standards and are not predicted to exceed MCLs in 2095 and beyond. Therefore, a 24-hour pump test is no longer required.

Nygard, Pierre

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We are currently in the process of updating the Snake River Plain Aquifer model and will work with you to determine if additional monitoring or remedial actions are required. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Rachel Hall at (208) 526-1661.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen E. Hain".

Kathleen E. Hain, Lead
Environmental Restoration Program

cc: M. English, IDHW, DEQ, 1410 N. Hilton, Boise, ID 83706
T. Kluk, DOE-HQ, EM-441
R. Cummings, DOE-HQ, EM 441